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LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

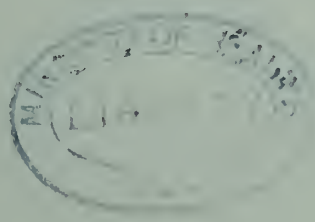
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1953



LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1953, which is furnished in accordance with Article 17, sub-section 5, of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935, and Circular 1/54 of the Ministry of Health.

During this year there was a widespread incidence of measles in the Rural District, an experience shared by many other Districts throughout the country. Apart from measles the incidence of other infectious disease was low.

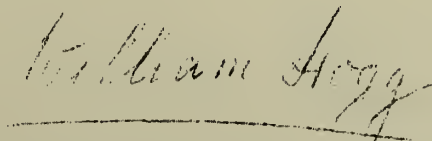
Progress in housing matters was somewhat disappointing, although it is anticipated that the present year is likely to be one of considerable achievement. The death rate for the District was low and the birth rate relatively high.

I have to acknowledge assistance in the preparation of this Report and throughout the year, by my colleagues, Mr. D.B.W. Dykes, Clerk to the Council; Mr. A.T. Thomas, Financial Officer; Mr. E.E. Jordan, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor; and Mr. K. Mills, Executive Officer.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the support which has been given me in the discharge of my duties.

I am,

Your obedient servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

17th August, 1954.

LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

William Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.

CLERICAL STAFF

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SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

Mr. E.E. Jordan, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

Mr. H.A. Lett, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

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Council Offices,

Southend,

Ledbury

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	49,867
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.53).	...	2434
Rateable Value.	...	£33,899
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	£134.17. Od.
Registrar General's estimated mid-year population.	...	8688

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

Live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population.	...	15.2
Adjusted Live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population.	...	17.6
Stillbirth rate per 1000 total births (live and still).	...	7.5
Death Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population (crude).	...	11.3
Adjusted Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population.	...	10.0
Area Comparability Factor (births).	...	1.16
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths).	...	0.89

Deaths from Maternal Causes.

Heading No.30.	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion.	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 Total Births.</u>
		Nil	Nil

Death Rates of Infants under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1000 live births.	...	Nil
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births.	...	Nil
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births.	...	Nil

The Ledbury Rural District forms the south eastern part of the County of Hereford, and can be regarded as a valley running in a north west - south east direction, with the Malvern Hills on the eastern border and the Marcle Hills on the west. The Rural District is entirely agricultural in character.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population is 8688. The population of the area has shown little change during the previous decade. The population is accommodated in 2434 dwellings in the 22 parishes comprising the Rural District.

During the month of September there is a large influx of population for the hop picking. It is probable that the population is temporarily increased by 70% for a period of four to six weeks, depending on the crop. It is estimated that half of this increase is due to children under 15 years of age.

The average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.57, and the average number of inhabited houses per acre is 0.048. The natural increase of the population, that is the excess of live births over deaths, for the year is 34.

Births.

The total number of live births for the year is 132 (71 male and 61 female). The crude live birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population is 15.2. The adjusted live birth rate is 17.6 per 1000 population. The live birth rate for England and Wales for the year 1953 is 15.5 per 1000 population.

The number of illegitimate live births is 13 (9 male and 4 female). Illegitimate live births formed 9.8% of all live births. Based upon the estimated population, the illegitimate live birth rate is 1.5 per 1000 population.

Stillbirths.

The number of stillbirths registered is 1, which is less than the number for the previous year (8). The stillbirth rate per 1000 total births is 7.5 or 0.12 per 1000 population. The stillbirth rate for England and Wales for 1953 is 0.35 per 1000 population.

Deaths.

The actual number of deaths recorded as having occurred within the Rural District is 98 (45 male and 53 female), after the deduction of deaths of non-residents occurring within the District, and the addition of deaths of residents occurring outside the area. The crude death rate is 11.3 per 1000 of the estimated resident population.

Using the comparability factor for the area of 0.89, the adjusted death rate is 10.0 per 1000 population. The death rate for the year for England and Wales is 11.4 per 1000 population.

Heart diseases (headings 18, 19 and 20) accounted for 28 deaths (12 male and 16 female). The adjusted death rate from these causes is 2.86 per 1000 population. In the previous year there were 35 deaths due to these causes.

Cancer of all sites this year caused 14 deaths (4 male and 10 female) whereas in 1952 cancer caused 18 deaths. The adjusted death rate for cancer of all sites for the Rural District for 1953 is 1.43 per 1000 population.

Table of Causes of Death according to Sex and Mortality Rates.

No.	Cause.	Male.	Fe- male.	Per- sons.	Corrected D.R. per 1000 Pop.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	2	1	3	0.31
8.	Measles.	-	1	1	0.10
9.	Other infectious and parasitic diseases.	1	1	2	0.20
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	-	4	4	0.41
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	1	1	2	0.20
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	1	1	0.10
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	3	4	7	0.72
16.	Diabetes.	-	1	1	0.10
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	7	12	19	1.95
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	5	7	12	1.23
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	-	1	1	0.10
20.	Other heart disease.	7	8	15	1.54
21.	Other circulatory disease.	4	2	6	0.61
22.	Influenza.	-	2	2	0.20
23.	Pneumonia.	4	1	5	0.51
24.	Bronchitis.	2	-	2	0.20
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	1	2	0.20
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	1	1	0.10
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.	1	-	1	0.10
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	3	-	3	0.31
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	1	-	1	0.10
33.	Motor vehicle accidents.	1	1	2	0.20
34.	All other accidents.	2	1	3	0.31
33.	Suicide.	-	2	2	0.20
All Causes.		45	53	98	10.00

Tuberculosis.

There were three deaths caused by respiratory tuberculosis (2 male and 1 female). This gives a corrected death rate for the Rural District of 0.31 per 1000 population from this cause. The death rate for England and Wales from this cause is 0.20 per 1000 population.

Deaths due to Acute Notifiable Disease.

Unfortunately one death was caused by encephalitis and another was attributed to measles. The corrected death rate from these two causes is, therefore, 0.20 per 1000 population.

Pneumonia this year caused 5 deaths (4 male and 1 female), giving an adjusted local death rate from pneumonia of 0.51 per 1000 population, and the rate from this cause for England and Wales is 0.55 per 1000 population.

Infant Mortality.

No deaths of children under the age of one year occurred; the infant mortality rate is therefore Nil.

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory at the County Hospital, Hereford continued to provide facilities for examination of clinical and public health specimens. The following table shows the examinations made by the Laboratory on behalf of the Department:-

Sputum.	...	6
Water (bacteriological)	...	94
Milk (methylene blue)	...	6
Milk (phosphatase)	...	6
Milk (biological)	...	11
Faeces.	...	7
Swabs.	...	6

In addition eleven samples of water and effluent were submitted to the Public Analyst.

Ambulance Facilities.

Ambulance facilities are provided from the towns of Ledbury, Malvern and Hereford.

Hospitals.

There are no hospitals within the Rural District, but the needs of the District are met by facilities provided in the general hospitals in Ledbury, Malvern, Hereford and Gloucester.

Accommodation for the treatment of infectious disease is provided at Stretton Sugwas Hospital, Hereford, whilst some notifiable disease is treated at the County Hospital, Hereford.

Clinics.

An Infant Welfare Centre is held every fortnight in the parish of Colwall by a voluntary committee, with assistance from the Herefordshire County Council. A similar clinic, held at the Church Room, Ledbury is available to inhabitants of the Rural District.

Disposal of the Dead - National Assistance Act 1948, Section 50.

No burials were carried out by the Local Authority under this section during the year.

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47.

No investigations were made under this section during the year.

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Geology.

The Ledbury Rural District forms the south eastern sector of the County of Hereford. The western boundary is formed by a ridge of upper silurian limestone in the Woolhope and Much Marcle area, whilst the eastern boundary is formed by the Malvern Hills, in Colwall and Eastnor. The geological formation of the Malvern Hills is complex but on the Ledbury side, upper silurian rocks seem to predominate. The old Red Sandstone of the Devonian System prevails between the hills in the east and west. Whilst a number of springs occur in the Malverns, the area is not well supplied with natural sources of water.

Water Supplies.

The water supplies of the area are derived from numerous separate sources; there are public wells and spouts, private wells, small privately owned piped schemes and mains of Local Authorities. The only supplies in the ownership of the Council are public wells and spouts and a small piped supply at Woolhope.

The quality of the water consumed by the inhabitants shows considerable variation according to the nature of the supply. The number of samples of water submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Hereford, for bacteriological examination was 94.

The water mains of the Malvern Urban District Council, supply part of the parish of Colwall, whilst those of the Ledbury Urban District supply portions of the parishes of Eastnor and Ledbury Rural. These supplies are the only chlorinated supplies in the area. Two small privately owned piped supplies are also available in Colwall parish. Altogether in this parish 457 dwellings are supplied from mains by separate services. There are no standpipe supplies.

There are other small piped schemes in operation in Eastnor (107 dwellings), Much Marcle (32 dwellings), and Tarrington (24 dwellings). The number of dwellings supplied from the mains of the Ledbury U.D.C. in Ledbury Rural Parish is 34, and 22 dwellings are connected to the mains of the Urban Council in Eastnor Parish.

There were no new sources of public water supply developed or extensions to public water mains carried out during the year. The number of wells cleaned out in order to abate contamination was 12. There was no evidence of any water used in the Rural District for potable purposes having any significant action upon metals.

During the year no part of the Rural District experienced shortage of water.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The parish of Colwall is provided with a system of public sewers to which most of the dwellings in the parish are connected.

The sewage disposal works is insufficient for adequate treatment but the construction of new disposal works was commenced about the middle of the year. As a temporary measure to improve the effluent land irrigation continued.

Seven samples of effluent were submitted to the Public Analysts for examination.

There is a short length of public sewer in Bosbury parish which receives the drainage of a small number of dwellings.

During the year 13 stopped drains were cleared, and 4 defective drains were repaired and reconstructed. The number of drainage inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors was 144 and 58 drain tests were made. The number of new drains provided was 44, and of these 42 were in connection with dwelling houses. No extensions to public sewers were carried out during the year.

Rivers and Streams.

The chief rivers flowing through the District are the Leadon, the Frome and Cradley Brook. The Leadon, the largest stream in the area is a tributary of the river Severn. The Leadon and the Cradley Brook showed evidence of pollution at times. The new sewage disposal works at Colwall should eliminate pollution in the Cradley Brook.

Closet Accommodation.

It is estimated that about one third of all the dwelling houses in the Rural District are provided with water closets, about half use pail closets and the remainder use privies. In Colwall parish with an adequate piped water supply, the proportion of water closets in use is over 90%.

Every opportunity to secure closet conversion is taken, and during the year 7 privies were converted to water closets, whilst 10 pail closets were converted to water closets. In addition 21 new water closets were provided.

Public Cleansing.

A weekly collection of domestic refuse is in operation in the parish of Colwall, carried out under contract. The refuse is tipped on the parish tip. The Council does not undertake the collection of trade refuse or the cleansing or emptying of cesspools and privies. A scheme of domestic refuse collection operates in Mathon parish, the collection being once each month, and a similar scheme operates in Eastnor parish every alternate month.

The Council does not carry out street cleansing.

There are no public wash-houses or baths situated within the District.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector for the following statement furnished in accordance with Article 27 (sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Inspections.

Animals.	...	3
Ashbins and Ashpits.	...	2
Bakehouses.	...	5
Camping Sites.	...	6
Caravans.	...	5
Dairies.	...	5
Drainage.	...	144
Drain Tests.	...	58
Filthy and Verminous Premises.	...	1
Factories (without mechanical power)....	...	5
Factories (with mechanical power).	...	31
Food Premises.	...	11
Fruit and Hop Pickers' Quarters.	...	120
Houses (Consolidated Regulations 1925).	...	122
Housing (Other).	...	98
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens.	...	11
Ice Cream (Registered Premises).	...	5
Infectious Disease.	...	8
Licensed Victuallers' Premises.	...	10
Outworkers' Premises.	...	1
Diseases of Animals Acts (Anthrax Order 1938).	...	2
Schools.	...	11
Sewage Disposal Works.	...	114
Sewers (Private).	...	2
Sanitary Conveniences.	...	12
Smoke Observations.	...	3
Swimming Baths and Pools.	...	2
Unsound Food.	...	20
Water Supply.	...	153
Work Places.	...	13

Notices Issued.

Informal.	...	51
Statutory.	...	1

Summary of Defects Remedied.

Cesspools and setic tanks cleansed.	...	2
Ditches cleared.	...	2
Drains and Gullies cleared.	...	13
Drains repaired.	...	2
Drains reconstructed.	...	2
New drains provided.	...	44
Defective floors repaired.	...	1
Defective roofs repaired.	...	4
Defective eaves gutters repaired.	...	2
Defective brickwork repaired.	...	2
Disinfections after infectious disease..	...	7
Defective windows repaired.	...	3
Defective chimneys repaired.	...	2
Dampness of walls and floors remedied...	...	3
Closets repaired.	...	1

Summary of Defects Remedied (continued).

New Gullies provided.	...	30
Inspection chambers repaired.	...	2
Privies converted to water closets.	...	7
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired....		1
New sinks provided.	...	14
Soil pipes repaired.	...	2
Sanitary fittings provided.	...	7
Wells cleansed or repaired.	...	12
Water supplies provided.	...	11
Miscellaneous defects remedied.	...	4

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There were three swimming pools open to the public within the District during the year. All are equipped with circulation and filtration apparatus.

Two samples of swimming pool water were submitted for bacteriological examination and were found to be sterile. This shows the purification plant to be working efficiently.

Hop and Fruit Pickers' Quarters.

As the cultivation of hops is an important agricultural activity of the area, it is customary for large numbers of hop pickers to move into the area at the beginning of September. During the 1953 season, it is estimated that over 6,000 persons were lodged in accommodation provided by the growers. In addition, a significant number of pickers provided their own accommodation by means of caravan or tent.

These lodgings are controlled by the Rural District Council's Byelaws. Lodgings were provided on 73 different premises. These lodgings show considerable variation in size and nature. Some are provided by the temporary use and adaptation of farm buildings normally used for other purposes; in other cases special buildings are erected for lodgings. The standard of accommodation provided showed some improvement on that of the previous year.

The use of machinery for stripping is becoming more common and in 1953 there were 16 machines in use. One large machine is equal to 250 hand pickers. The number of inspections of hop pickers' quarters made under the Byelaws was 120.

Notifiable infectious disease did not occur amongst pickers during 1953.

Camping Sites. Public Health Act 1936, Section 269.

No licences for camping sites were granted by the Council under this section. Camping within the area is limited and it presents no major health problems. Eastnor Park is used as a camping ground during the summer months by members of bodies exempted under sub-section 6 of this section. The maximum number of campers at any time during the year is estimated not to exceed 100. Only one site was used for camping during the year.

Eradication of Bed-Bugs.

No dwelling house within the District was found to be infested with bed-bugs and no action was required by the Department.

Shops and Offices.

No action by the Department was necessary during the year in connection with these premises.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948.

At the end of the year there were four factories without mechanical power, and twentyone with mechanical power, registered with the Local Authority.

There are no outworkers registered with the Local Authority at the present time.

Factory Form 572 (revised)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1953, for the Rural District of Ledbury in the County of Hereford.

Part I of Act

1. Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Inspect-ions.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted.</u>
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities.	4	5	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	21	31	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (except outworkers' premises).	14	13	3	-
Total	39	49	3	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found.</u>				<u>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.</u>
	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred to H.M. Inspector.</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspector.</u>	
Sanitary Conveniences.					
Insufficient.	5	5	-	-	-

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Council employs a Pest Officer jointly with the Hereford Rural District Council and the Ross and Whitchurch Rural District Council. The following is a summary of the work carried out under the Act.

	Prem- ises In- spected.	Total Infest- ations.	Rats		No. of prop- erties treated.	Stat- utory Notices.
			Major	Minor		
Local Authorities'						
Properties.	3	4	-	4	9	-
Dwelling						
Houses.	60	23	1	22	-	-
Agricultural						
Properties.	170	50	18	32	-	-
All other (includ- ing business) premises.	10	3	-	3	-	-
Total	243	80	19	61	9	-

SECTION D - HOUSINGNew dwellings.

The number of new Council houses completed during the year was 14; these were situated in the parishes of Pixley (8) and Yarkhill (6). No Council houses were under construction at the end of the year.

Private persons completed the erection of three dwelling houses whilst 13 were in course of erection but incomplete at the end of the year. The following table gives the location of these according to parish:-

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>Completed.</u>	<u>Incomplete.</u>
Coddington.	-	2
Bosbury.	-	1
Colwall.	2	6
Ledbury Rural	1	4

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	...	130
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the above purpose.	...	150
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1a above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	...	109
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the above purpose.	...	122
3.		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	Nil
4.		Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	...	16

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	...	12
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Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

1.		Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.		
	(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	...	Nil
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices		
	(i)	By Owners.	...	Nil
	(ii)	By Local Authority in default of Owners.	...	Nil
2.		Proceedings under Public Health Acts.		
	(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	...	1
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices		
	(i)	By Owners.	...	1
	(ii)	By Local Authority in default of Owners.	...	Nil

3. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
 - (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. ... Nil
 - (b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. ... Nil

4. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.
 - (a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. ... Nil
 - (b) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. ... Nil

Housing Act 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

- (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. ... 10
- (b) Number of families dwelling therein. ... 11
- (c) Number of persons dwelling therein. ... 65
- (d) Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year. ... Nil
- (e) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. ... 55
- (f) Number of persons concerned in (e) above. ... 196

Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1949.

- Section 2. The number of demolition orders quashed as a result of works rendering dwellings fit for habitation. ... Nil

- Section 4.(a) The number of new dwellings provided by construction, with the aid of money advanced by the Local Authority. ... Nil
- (b) The number of dwellings provided by conversion of existing buildings, with the aid of money advanced by the Local Authority. ... Nil

- Section 15 (a) The number of dwellings provided by the Local Authority by the conversion of houses and other buildings. ... Nil
- (b) The number of dwellings improved by the Local Authority. ... Nil

- Section 20 (a) The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the provision of dwellings by conversion of buildings. ... Nil
- (b) The number of grants made by the Local Authority for the improvement of dwellings. ... 2

Overcrowding - Housing Act 1936 - Part IV.

At the beginning of the year 65 dwellings were recorded as legally overcrowded within the meaning of Section 58.

During the year a special investigation was made of the extent of overcrowding and as a result it was found that 55 cases previously known to the Department had been relieved. As no new cases occurred only 10 cases involving 11 persons remained at the end of the year. This is very satisfactory.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

At the end of the year 5 distributors were registered with the Council. There are no plants for pasteurization of milk and no factories for the manufacturing or processing of milk within the area. Three licences were issued by the Council for the sale of tuberculin tested milk and 3 for the sale of pasteurized milk. No licences were issued for the sale of sterilised milk. Dairies were inspected 5 times.

The number of samples of milk submitted for methylene blue test was 6. All samples satisfied the test. Six samples of milk were sent for phosphatase test - all satisfied the test. Two samples of milk were sent for biological test and one of these was positive. A pasteurization notice under Article 20 of Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 was served and two cows in the producer's herd were subsequently found to be giving infested milk and were slaughtered.

Ice Cream. Food and Drugs Act 1938 Sections 14 and 16.

Ten premises were registered with the Local Authority for the storage and sale of ice cream, and one registered for the manufacture of ice cream. No action was necessary by the Department in connection with any of these premises. The number of inspections made during the year was five.

Water Cress.

No action was necessary by the Department during the year in connection with this food. The sale of water cress would appear to be small as it grows under natural conditions in a number of places in the area.

Shell Fish.

The sale of shell fish within the District is very small and no action was required during the year.

Meat and Other Foods.

There are no slaughterhouses in use within the District; all slaughtering for meat for human consumption is now carried out at the Central Abattoir at Hereford.

Part of the Sanitary Inspector's duty is the inspection of food exposed for sale and the following list shows the amount of food found unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

<u>Quantity.</u>	<u>Food.</u>	<u>Cause of unsoundness.</u>
7 tons 15 cwts.	Oranges.	Decomposition and mould.
4 x 2 oz. tins	Cherries.	Blown or damaged tins.
4 x 15 oz. tins	Tomatoes.	" " " "
4 x 14 oz. tins	Milk.	" " " "
2 x 13 oz. tins	Peas.	" " " "
1 x 16 oz. tin	Beans.	" " " "
1 x 12 oz. tin	Luncheon Meat.	" " " "
2 x 7 oz. tins	" "	" " " "
2 x 19 oz. tins	Plums.	" " " "
7 x 19 oz. tins	Damsons.	" " " "
1 x 7 lb. tin	Ham.	" " " "

A consignment of $37\frac{1}{2}$ tons of oranges was specially examined and $7\frac{3}{4}$ tons were found to be unsound by reason of decomposition and mould.

All unsound food is dealt with by burying or burning at the refuse tip.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

Situated within the area are two jam factories, a fruit and vegetable canning factory, two soft drink factories, and a factory for the manufacture of cider and perry. The number of inspections of premises registered with the Local Authority under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, was 15.

Byelaws as to Handling, etc. of Food.

No contravention of these Byelaws was found at any time during the year. There are no food markets held within the Rural District, but the Byelaws have secured an improvement in the handling and wrapping of food.

SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The very low incidence of infectious disease experienced in 1952 was not maintained in 1953, as the number of notifications received during the year was 197 compared with 63. This was caused by a widespread outbreak of measles (181 cases). The number of notifications received in the first half of the year was 191.

Whooping Cough.

The incidence of whooping cough showed little change on comparison with the previous year. Nine cases were notified, 8 occurring in the first half of the year. The incidence rate is 1.04 per 1000 of the estimated population - this rate for England and Wales is 3.58 per 1000 population.

Measles.

There was an increased prevalence of this disease noticed in the final quarter of 1952, and during the first quarter of 1953 the disease became much more widespread - 84 notifications being received. However, in the second quarter of the year the incidence was slightly heavier as 93 cases were notified and it disappeared from the District as the third quarter opened. Altogether 181 cases were notified and the incidence rate is therefore 20.8 per 1000 estimated population; this rate for England and Wales for the year being 3.58 per 1000 population. Unfortunately, there was one death caused by the disease, giving a corrected death rate from this cause of 0.1 per 1000 population.

Scarlet Fever.

The incidence of this disease was very low as only two cases occurred. The morbidity rate is 0.23 per 1000 population; the national rate for the year for this disease being 1.39 per 1000 population.

<u>Confirmed Cases of Infectious Disease in each Quarter.</u>					
<u>Disease.</u>	<u>1st</u> <u>Quarter.</u>	<u>2nd</u> <u>Quarter.</u>	<u>3rd</u> <u>Quarter.</u>	<u>4th</u> <u>Quarter.</u>	<u>Year.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	1	-	-	1	2
Measles.	84	93	4	-	181
Dysentery.	1	-	-	-	1
Acute Encephalitis.	-	1	-	-	1
Whooping Cough.	3	5	1	-	9
Pneumonia.	-	1	-	-	1
Erysipelas.	2	-	-	-	2
All Diseases	91	100	5	1	197

Pneumonia.

Only one notification of pneumonia was received, although five deaths were attributed to the disease.

Other Infectious Diseases.

Two notifications of erysipelas were received; one case of Sonne Dysentery was notified and one case of acute encephalitis. The case of acute encephalitis was considered to be a primary infection and it rapidly proved to be fatal.

Analysis of notified cases according
to certain Age Groups.

Disease.	0+	1+	3+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	Age N.K.
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.	-	20	32	94	28	1	5	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Dysentery.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	3	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Acute Encephalitis.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	24	36	98	29	1	6	-	1	1	1

The Rural District was free from diphtheria, acute poliomyelitis, typhoid fever and meningococcal infection, throughout the year. Also no case of puerperal pyrexia or ophthalmia neonatorum occurred.

Tuberculosis.

At the beginning of the year there were 67 cases of tuberculosis on the Register (53 respiratory and 14 non-respiratory). During the year 12 cases of respiratory disease were added. Of these, 8 cases were new infections. The number of cases removed from the Register during the year was 11 respiratory cases. At the end of the year, therefore, 68 cases remained on the Register (54 respiratory and 14 non-respiratory).

New Cases and Mortality during Year 1953.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
35+	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
45+	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Total	4	4	-	-	2	1	-	-

There were 3 deaths attributed to tuberculosis, giving a corrected death rate of 0.31 per 1000 of the population. ~~The rate~~

The death rate for tuberculosis in England and Wales for 1953 is 0.20 per 1000 population.

